

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing system built by connecting a host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a storage medium, and a device added with a card device function, wherein said device connected to said system comprises:

communication control means for controlling a communication between said host device and said device;

a card interface for connecting a card device;

10 card control means for controlling a card device which is detachably connectable to said card interface;

communication means for sharing device information between said host device and said card device via said card control means and said

15 communication control means; and

control means for allowing another device connected via said card device to use information shared by said communication means.

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein said control means allows the other device to use one or both of operation input means and display means of said device connected via said card device.

3. The system according to claim 1, wherein said control means can exchange and arbitrarily read out status information of the other device connected via said card device.

4. The system according to claim 3, wherein said device includes a printer device.

5. The system according to claim 3, wherein said device is a host device.

5 6. The system according to claim 3, wherein said device is a card controller.

7. An image data processing method for processing data by exchanging information between a host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a storage medium, and a device added with a card device function, comprising:

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the communication control step of controlling a communication between said host device and said device;

the step of executing a connection process to a card device via a card interface;

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the card control step of controlling a card device which is detachably connectable to said card interface;

the communication step of sharing device information between said host device and said card device via processes of the card control step and the communication control step; and

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the control step of allowing another device connected via said card device to use information shared by a process of the communication step.

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8. A computer readable storage medium which stores a program module for making a computer implement an image

data processing method for processing data by
exchanging information between a host device which
reads out and executes program data stored in a storage
medium, and a device added with a card device function,

5 said program module comprising:

a communication control module for controlling a
communication between said host device and said device;

a connection process module for executing a
connection process to a card device via a card
10 interface;

a card control module for controlling a card
device which is detachably connectable to said card
interface;

a communication module for sharing device
15 information between said host device and said card
device via processes of said card control module and
said communication control module; and

a control module for allowing another device
connected via said card device to use information
20 shared by a process of said communication module.

9. An image processing system built by connecting a
host device which reads out and executes program data
stored in a storage medium, and a device added with a
card device function, wherein said device connected to
25 said system comprises:

communication control means for controlling a
communication between said host device and said device;

a card interface for connecting a card device;
card control means for controlling a card device
which is detachably connectable to said card interface;

communication means for sharing device
5 information between said host device and said card
device via said card control means and said
communication control means;

control means for allowing another device
connected via said card device to use information
10 shared by said communication means; and

detection means for detecting based on the
information shared by said communication means if said
host device can communicate with said device, and

when said host device cannot communicate with
15 said device as a result of detection, and when said
card device receives a data transmission request from
the other device connected to said host device, said
control means saves the transmission request as error
history information in storage means in said device,
20 and when said host device can communicate with said
device later, said communication means sends to said
host device a message indicating that the error history
information is stored in said device, and sends back
the error history information to said host device in
25 response to a request from said host device which
received that message.

10. The system according to claim 9, wherein when
said host device cannot communicate with said device as
a result of detection, and when said card device
receives a data transmission request from the other
5 device connected to said host device, said control
means saves the transmission request as error history
information in storage means in said card device, and
when said host device can communicate with said device
later, said communication means sends to said host
10 device a message indicating that the error history
information is stored in said card device, and sends
back the error history information to said host device
in response to a request from said host device which
received that message.

15 11. The system according to claim 9, wherein said
host device comprises:

first information output means for, when the
error history information is acquired, analyzing
contents of an error that occurred when said host
20 device could not communicate in accordance with
contents of the information or a history, and
outputting error information as a text message or icon
on a screen or as an audible message on the basis of
the analysis result so as to inform an operation error;
25 and

second information output means for explaining a cause of the error and an operation sequence for removing the error.

12. An image data processing method for processing
5 data by exchanging information between a host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a storage medium, and a device added with a card device function, comprising:

the communication control step of controlling a
10 communication between said host device and said device;

the step of executing a connection process to a card device via a card interface;

the card control step of controlling a card device which is detachably connectable to said card
15 interface;

the communication step of sharing device information between said host device and said card device via processes of the card control step and the communication control step;

20 the control step of allowing another device connected via said card device to use information shared by a process of the communication step; and

the detection step of detecting based on the information shared by the process of the communication
25 step if said host device can communicate with said device, and

in that in the control step when said host device cannot communicate with said device as a result of detection, and when said card device receives a data transmission request from the other device connected to said host device, the transmission request is saved as error history information in storage means in said device, and in the communication step when said host device can communicate with said device later, a message indicating that the error history information is saved is sent to said host device, and the error history information is sent back to said host device in response to a request from said host device which received that message.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein when said host device cannot communicate with said device as a result of detection, and when said card device receives a data transmission request from the other device connected to said host device, the transmission request is saved as error history information in storage means in said card device in the control step, and when said host device can communicate with said device later, a message indicating that the error history information is saved in said card device is sent to said host device, and the error history information is sent back to said host device in response to a request from said host device which received that message in the communication step.

14. The method according to claim 12, wherein said host device comprises:

the first information output step of analyzing,
when the error history information is acquired,
5 contents of an error that occurred when said host
device could not communicate in accordance with
contents of the information or a history, and
outputting error information as a text message or icon
on a screen or as an audible message on the basis of
10 the analysis result so as to inform an operation error;
and

the second information output step of explaining
a cause of the error and an operation sequence for
removing the error.

15 15. A computer readable storage medium which stores a
program module for making a computer implement an image
data processing method for processing data by
exchanging information between a host device which
reads out and executes program data stored in a storage
20 medium, and a device added with a card device function,
said program module comprising:

a communication control module for controlling a
communication between said host device and said device;

a connection process module for executing a
25 connection process to a card device via a card
interface;

a card control module for controlling a card device which is detachably connectable to said card interface;

a communication module for sharing device
5 information between said host device and said card device via processes of said card control module and said communication control module;

a control module for allowing another device connected via said card device to use information
10 shared by a process of said communication module; and

a detection module for detecting based on the information shared by the process of said communication module if said host device can communicate with said device, and

15 in that when said host device cannot communicate with said device as a result of detection, and when said card device receives a data transmission request from the other device connected to said host device, said control module saves the transmission request as
20 error history information in storage means in said device, and when said host device can communicate with said device later, said communication module sends to said host device a message indicating that the error history information is stored in said device, and sends
25 back the error history information to said host device in response to a request from said host device which received that message.

16. An image processing system built by connecting a host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a storage medium, and a device added with a card device function, wherein said device connected to
5 said system comprises:

communication control means for controlling a communication between said host device and said device;

a card interface for connecting a card device;

card control means for controlling a card device
10 which is detachably connectable to said card interface;

communication means for sharing device information between said host device and said card device via said card control means and said communication control means; and

15 control means for allowing another device connected via said card device to use information shared by said communication means, and

when said device is in a power saving mode upon receiving a processing request from the other device
20 connected via said card device, said control means starts a printer initial operation, and said control means sends the request information to said host device, and

when a request other than the print request is
25 received, said control means does not start the printer initial mode operation even when said device is in the

power saving mode, and said communication means sends the request information to said host device.

17. The system according to claim 16, wherein said card control means has output control means for
5 determining processing performance of said device on the basis of the information shared by said communication means, when said output control means determines that said device can process by itself, a processing request is output to only said device, and
10 when said output control means determines that said device cannot process by itself, a processing request is issued to said host device and said device.

18. The system according to claim 16, wherein said device includes a printer device.

15 19. An image data processing method for processing data by exchanging information between a host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a storage medium, and a device added with a card device function, comprising:

20 the communication control step of controlling a communication between said host device and said device;

the step of executing a connection process to a card device via a card interface;

the card control step of controlling a card
25 device which is detachably connectable to said card interface;

the communication step of sharing device information between said host device and said card device via processes of the card control step and the communication control step; and

5 the control step of allowing another device connected via said card device to use information shared by a process of the communication step, and

10 in that in the communication step when said device is in a power saving mode upon receiving a processing request from the other device connected via said card device, a printer initial operation is started in the control step, and the request information is sent to said host device, and

15 in the communication step when a request other than the print request is received, the printer initial mode operation is not started in the control step even when said device is in the power saving mode, and the request information is sent to said host device.

20 20. The method according to claim 19, wherein the card control step includes the output control step of determining processing performance of said device on the basis of the information shared by the process of the communication step, when it is determined in the output control step that said device can process by
25 itself, a processing request is output to only said device, and when it is determined in the output control step that said device cannot process by itself, a

processing request is issued to said host device and said device.

21. A computer readable storage medium which stores a program module for making a computer implement an image data processing method for processing data by exchanging information between a host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a storage medium, and a device added with a card device function, said program module comprising:

10 a communication control module for controlling a communication between said host device and said device;

a connection process module for executing a connection process to a card device via a card interface;

15 a card control module for controlling a card device which is detachably connectable to said card interface;

a communication module for sharing device information between said host device and said card device via processes of said card control module and said communication control module; and

a control module for allowing another device connected via said card device to use information shared by a process of said communication module, and

25 in that when said device is in a power saving mode upon receiving a processing request from the other device connected via said card device, said control

module starts a printer initial operation, and said control module sends the request information to said host device, and

when a request other than the print request is
5 received, said control module does not start the printer initial mode operation even when said device is in the power saving mode, and said communication module sends the request information to said host device.

22. An image processing system built by connecting a
10 host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a storage medium, and a device added with a card device function, wherein said device connected to said system comprises:

communication control means for controlling a
15 communication between said host device and said device;

a card interface for connecting a card device;

card control means for controlling a card device which is detachably connectable to said card interface;

communication means for sharing device
20 information between said host device and said card device via said card control means and said communication control means; and

control means for allowing another device connected via said card device to use information
25 shared by said communication means,

said host device comprises:

recognition means for recognizing a device
connected by said communication control means; and

driver detection means for automatically
detecting driver software optimal to the device

5 recognized by said recognition means, and

said card control means checks compatibility
between the detected driver software and said card
device, and automatically updates a control program of
said card device.

10 23. The system according to claim 22, wherein the
driver software is pre-stored in one of a CD-ROM, a
DVD-ROM, and an external memory connected to said host
device.

24. The system according to claim 22, wherein the
15 driver software is pre-stored in storage means of a
device connected to a network.

25. The system according to claim 22, wherein when
said card control means determines that the detected
driver software is not compatible with the control
20 program of said card device, said card control means
requests said host device to change the driver software,
and said host device detects and changes optimal driver
software that is compatible with said card device in
response to the request.

25 26. An image data processing method for processing
data by exchanging information between a host device
which reads out and executes program data stored in a

storage medium, and a device added with a card device function, comprising:

the communication control step of controlling a communication between said host device and said device;

5 the step of executing a connection process to a card device via a card interface;

the card control step of controlling a card device which is detachably connectable to said card interface;

10 the communication step of sharing device information between said host device and said card device via processes of the card control step and the communication control step;

15 the control step of allowing another device connected via said card device to use information shared by a process of the communication step;

the recognition step of recognizing a device connected by a process of the communication control step; and

20 the driver detection step of automatically detecting driver software optimal to the device recognized by a process of the recognition step, and

in that a process of the control step checks compatibility between the detected driver software and
25 said card device, and automatically updates a control program of said card device.

27. The method according to claim 26, wherein when the process of the card control step determines that the detected driver software is not compatible with the control program of said card device, the process of the card control step requests said host device to change the driver software, and said host device detects and changes optimal driver software that is compatible with said card device in response to the request.

28. A computer readable storage medium which stores a program module for making a computer implement an image data processing method for processing data by exchanging information between a host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a storage medium, and a device added with a card device function, said program module comprising:

a communication control module for controlling a communication between said host device and said device;

a connection process module for executing a connection process to a card device via a card interface;

a card control module for controlling a card device which is detachably connectable to said card interface;

a communication module for sharing device information between said host device and said card device via processes of said card control module and said communication control module;

a control module for allowing another device connected via said card device to use information shared by a process of said communication module;

a recognition module for recognizing a device
5 connected by a process of said communication control module; and

a driver detection module for automatically detecting driver software optimal to the device recognized by a process of said recognition module, and

10 in that a process of said control module checks compatibility between the detected driver software and said card device, and automatically updates a control program of said card device.

29. The medium according to claim 28, wherein when
15 the process of said card control module determines that the detected driver software is not compatible with the control program of said card device, the process of said card control module requests said host device to change the driver software, and said host device
20 detects and changes optimal driver software that is compatible with said card device in response to the request.

30. An image processing system built by connecting a host device which reads out and executes program data
25 stored in a storage medium, and a device added with a card device function, wherein said device connected to said system comprises:

communication control means for controlling a
communication between said host device and said device;
a card interface for connecting a card device;
card control means for controlling a card device
5 which is detachably connectable to said card interface;
communication means for sharing device
information between said host device and said card
device via said card control means and said
communication control means;
10 control means for allowing another device
connected via said card device to use information
shared by said communication means;
means for detecting a type of device connected to
said host device in accordance with the device
15 information shared by said communication means; and
means for selecting and setting a control program
that is compatible with the device from storage means
in accordance with the detection result, and
said control means executes the control program,
20 and controls the device to output a processing result.

31. The system according to claim 30, wherein said
control means generates composite image data by
combining text information, image information, audio
information, and the like stored in storage device of
25 each device connected, and information obtained via the
control program as needed, and controls the device to
output the processing result.

32. The system according to claim 30, wherein an application program which runs on said host device has:

a first control program for a print operation;

and

5 a second control program for generating print control data to be printed by the device connected to said host device in accordance with operation contents requested by said first control program,

input information from said first control program
10 to said second control program includes at least image information, and print mode information for designating a print output speed and quality,

said first control program passes, as the input information, print mode information automatically
15 generated in accordance with a type of image data to be printed, a designated print paper medium type, and select information designated by operation, and image information, to said second control program,

said second control program generates the print
20 control data in accordance with the input information, and

said control means outputs a print image to said device in accordance with the print control data.

33. An image data processing method for processing
25 data by exchanging information between a host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a

storage medium, and a device added with a card device function, comprising:

the communication control step of controlling a communication between said host device and said device;

5 the step of executing a connection process to a card device via a card interface;

the card control step of controlling a card device which is detachably connectable to said card interface;

10 the communication step of sharing device information between said host device and said card device via processes of the card control step and the communication control step;

15 the control step of allowing another device connected via said card device to use information shared by a process of the communication step;

the step of detecting a type of device connected to said host device in accordance with the device information shared by the process of the communication
20 step; and

the step of selecting and setting a control program that is compatible with the device from storage means in accordance with the detection result, and

in that a process of the control step executes
25 the control program, and controls the device to output a processing result.

34. The method according to claim 33, wherein the process of the control step generates composite image data by combining text information, image information, audio information, and the like stored in storage device of each device connected, and information obtained via the control program as needed, and controls the device to output the processing result.

35. A computer readable storage medium which stores a program module for making a computer implement an image data processing method for processing data by exchanging information between a host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a storage medium, and a device added with a card device function, said program module comprising:

a communication control module for controlling a communication between said host device and said device;

a connection process module for executing a connection process to a card device via a card interface;

a card control module for controlling a card device which is detachably connectable to said card interface;

a communication module for sharing device information between said host device and said card device via processes of said card control module and said communication control module;

a control module for allowing another device connected via said card device to use information shared by a process of said communication module;

5 a module for detecting a type of device connected to said host device in accordance with the device information shared by the process of said communication module; and

10 a module for selecting and setting a control program that is compatible with the device from storage means in accordance with the detection result, and

in that a process of said control module executes the control program, and controls the device to output a processing result.

36. An image processing system built by connecting a
15 host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a storage medium, and a device which can exchange information such as image data, audio data, and the like with said host device, said device including at least a device comprising a print function,
20 wherein said device connected to said system comprises:

communication control means for controlling a communication between said host device and said device;

communication means for sharing device
information between said host device and said card
25 device via said communication control means;

control means for allowing another device
connected to use information shared by said
communication means;

means for detecting a type of device connected to
5 said host device in accordance with the device
information shared by said communication means; and

means for selecting and setting a control program
that is compatible with the device from storage means
in accordance with the detection result, and

10 said control means executes the control program,
and controls the device to output a processing result.

37. The system according to claim 36, wherein said
control means generates composite image data by
combining text information, image information, audio
15 information, and the like stored in storage means of
each device connected, and information obtained via the
control program as needed, and controls the device to
output the processing result.

38. The system according to claim 36, wherein an
20 application program which runs on said host device has:

a first control program for a print operation;
and

a second control program for generating print
control data to be printed by the device connected to
25 said host device in accordance with operation contents
requested by said first control program,

input information from said first control program to said second control program includes at least image information, and print mode information for designating a print output speed and quality,

5 said first control program passes, as the input information, print mode information automatically generated in accordance with a type of image data to be printed, a designated print paper medium type, and select information designated by operation, and image
10 information, to said second control program,

 said second control program generates the print control data in accordance with the input information, and

 said control means outputs a print image to said
15 device in accordance with the print control data.

39. An image data processing method for processing data by exchanging information between devices in an image processing system built by connecting a host device which reads out and executes program data stored
20 in a storage medium, and a device which can exchange information such as image data, audio data, and the like with said host device, said device including at least a device comprising a print function, said method comprising:

25 the communication control step of controlling a communication between said host device and said device;

the communication step of sharing device
information between said host device and said card
device via a process of the communication control step;

the control step of allowing another device
5 connected to use information shared by a process of the
communication step;

the step of detecting a type of device connected
to said host device in accordance with the device
information shared by the process of the communication
10 step; and

the step of selecting and setting a control
program that is compatible with the device from storage
means in accordance with the detection result, and

in that a process of the control step executes
15 the control program, and controls the device to output
a processing result.

40. The method according to claim 39, wherein the
process of the control step generates composite image
data by combining text information, image information,
20 audio information, and the like stored in storage means
of each device connected, and information obtained via
the control program as needed, and controls the device
to output the processing result.

41. A computer readable storage medium which stores a
25 program for making a computer implement an image data
processing method for processing data by exchanging
information between devices in an image processing

system built by connecting a host device which reads
out and executes program data stored in a storage
medium, and a device which can exchange information
such as image data, audio data, and the like with said
5 host device, said device including at least a device
comprising a print function, said program module
comprising:

a communication control module for controlling a
communication between said host device and said device;
10 a communication module for sharing device
information between said host device and said card
device via a process of said communication control
module;

a control module for allowing another device
15 connected to use information shared by a process of
said communication module;

a module for detecting a type of device connected
to said host device in accordance with the device
information shared by the process of said communication
20 module; and

a module for selecting and setting a control
program that is compatible with the device from storage
means in accordance with the detection result, and

in that a process of said control module executes
25 the control program, and controls the device to output
a processing result.

42. An image processing system built by connecting a host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a storage medium, and a device added with a card device function, wherein said device connected to
5 said system comprises:

communication control means for controlling a communication between said host device and said device;

a card interface for connecting a card device;

card control means for controlling a card device
10 which is detachably connectable to said card interface;

communication means for sharing device information between said host device and said card device via said card control means and said communication control means; and

15 control means for allowing another device connected via said card device to use information shared by said communication means, and

said host device comprises:

identification means for identifying for all
20 devices connected on the basis of the device information shared by said communication means if the devices are usable; and

suppression control means for, when none of devices which are used upon executing an application
25 program can be used in accordance with an identification result of said identification means, inhibiting the application program from being launched.

43. The system according to claim 42, wherein when an application program which allows said card device to use another device connected is selected and executed, and when none of devices which are used upon executing
5 an application program can be used in accordance with an identification result of said identification means, said suppression control means displays an icon used to select the application program in a selection-inhibited state, and when the selection-inhibited icon is
10 selected, a notice indicating that a device to be used to execute the application is not available is generated.

44. The system according to claim 43, wherein the notice is one of text, image, and audio alerts or an
15 operation sequence.

45. The system according to claim 42, wherein when the identification result of said identification means changes to indicate that the device can be used, said suppression control means cancels an inhibition process
20 of selection and execution of the application program, and said control program launches the designated application program.

46. The system according to claim 42, wherein when at least one device can be used, said control means
25 launches a target application program, and

said suppression control means inhibits a program corresponding to a device that cannot be used from being launched.

47. The system according to claim 45, wherein when
5 the identification result of said identification means changes to indicate that the device can be used, said suppression control means changes the icon used to designate the application program to a selectable state.

48. The system according to claim 42, wherein said
10 host device further comprises type detection means for detecting a type of information which can be acquired from said card device, and

when the number of types of information that can be acquired from said card device is one, said control
15 means launches an application program which is pre-set for each information type.

49. The system according to claim 48, wherein when a plurality of application programs are pre-set for each information type, said control means outputs a
20 selection screen of those application program, makes a user select a desired application program, and launches the selected application program.

50. The system according to claim 48, comprising:
operation means for creating, editing, and saving
25 information for each type, which is set in advance; and

storage control means for saving the information for each type in storage means of a certain device connected.

51. The system according to claim 42, wherein said
5 host device reads out information from said card device, and writes the information in storage means of said device by sending a predetermined request to a device connected.

52. The system according to claim 42, wherein said
10 host device comprises storage control means for controlling to read out information or a control program of storage means of each device connected, and to rewrite the information or the control program.

53. An image data processing method for processing
15 data by exchanging information between a host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a storage medium, and a device added with a card device function, comprising:

the communication control step of controlling a
20 communication between said host device and said device;

the step of executing a connection process to a card device via a card interface;

the card control step of controlling a card device which is detachably connectable to said card
25 interface;

the communication step of sharing device information between said host device and said card

device via processes of the card control step and the communication control step;

the control step of allowing another device connected via said card device to use information
5 shared by a process of the communication step;

the identification step of identifying for all devices connected on the basis of the device information shared by the process of the communication step if the devices are usable; and

10 the suppression control step of inhibiting, when none of devices which are used upon executing an application program can be used in accordance with an identification result of a process of the identification step, the application program from being
15 launched.

54. A computer readable storage medium which stores a program module for making a computer implement an image data processing method for processing data by exchanging information between a host device which
20 reads out and executes program data stored in a storage medium, and a device added with a card device function, said program module comprising:

a communication control module for controlling a communication between said host device and said device;
25 a connection process module for executing a connection process to a card device via a card interface;

a card control module for controlling a card device which is detachably connectable to said card interface;

a communication module for sharing device
5 information between said host device and said card device via processes of said card control module and said communication control module;

a control module for allowing another device connected via said card device to use information
10 shared by a process of said communication module;

an identification module for identifying for all devices connected on the basis of the device information shared by the process of said communication module if the devices are usable; and

a suppression control module for, when none of
15 devices which are used upon executing an application program can be used in accordance with an identification result of a process of said identification module, inhibiting the application
20 program from being launched.

55. An image processing system built by connecting a host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a storage medium, and a device which can exchange information such as image data, audio data,
25 and the like with said host device, said device including at least a device comprising a print function, wherein said device connected to said system comprises:

communication control means for controlling a
communication between said host device and said device;

communication means for sharing device
information between said host device and said card
5 device via said communication control means;

control means for allowing another device
connected to use information shared by said
communication means, and

said host device comprises:

10 identification means for identifying for all
devices connected on the basis of the device
information shared by said communication means if the
devices are usable; and

suppression control means for, when none of
15 devices which are used upon executing an application
program can be used in accordance with an
identification result of said identification means,
inhibiting the application program from being launched.

56. The system according to claim 55, wherein when an
20 application program which allows to use another device
connected is selected and executed, and when none of
devices which are used upon executing an application
program can be used in accordance with an
identification result of said identification means,
25 said suppression control means displays an icon used to
select the application program in a selection-inhibited
state, and when the selection-inhibited icon is

selected, a notice indicating that a device to be used to execute the application is not available is generated.

57. The system according to claim 56, wherein the
5 notice is one of text, image, and audio alerts or an operation sequence.

58. The system according to claim 55, wherein when the identification result of said identification means changes to indicate that the device can be used, said
10 suppression control means cancels an inhibition process of selection and execution of the application program, and said control program launches the designated application program.

59. The system according to claim 55, wherein when at
15 least one device can be used, said control means launches a target application program, and

said suppression control means inhibits a program corresponding to a device that cannot be used from being launched.

20 60. The system according to claim 58, wherein when the identification result of said identification means changes to indicate that the device can be used, said suppression control means changes the icon used to designate the application program to a selectable state.

25 61. The system according to claim 55, wherein said host device further comprises type detection means for

detecting a type of information which can be acquired from said device connected, and

when the number of types of information that can be acquired from said device connected is one, said
5 control means launches an application program which is pre-set for each information type.

62. The system according to claim 61, wherein when a plurality of application programs are pre-set for each information type, said control means outputs a
10 selection screen of those application program, makes a user select a desired application program, and launches the selected application program.

63. The system according to claim 61, comprising:
operation means for creating, editing, and saving
15 information for each type, which is set in advance; and
storage control means for saving the information for each type in storage means of a certain device connected.

64. The system according to claim 55, wherein said
20 host device reads out information from a device connected, and writes the information in storage means of said device by sending a predetermined request to said device.

65. The system according to claim 55, wherein said
25 host device comprises storage control means for controlling to read out information or a control

program of storage means of each device connected, and
to rewrite the information or the control program.

66. An image data processing method for processing
data by exchanging information between devices in an
5 image processing system built by connecting a host
device which reads out and executes program data stored
in a storage medium, and a device which can exchange
information such as image data, audio data, and the
like with said host device, said device including at
10 least a device comprising a print function, said method
comprising:

the communication control step of controlling a
communication between said host device and said device;

the communication step of sharing device
15 information between said host device and said card
device via a process of the communication control step;

the control step of allowing another device
connected to use information shared by a process of the
communication step;

20 the identification step of identifying for all
devices connected on the basis of the device
information shared by the process of the communication
step if the devices are usable; and

the suppression control step of inhibiting, when
25 none of devices which are used upon executing an
application program can be used in accordance with an
identification result of a process of the

identification step, the application program from being launched.

67. A computer readable storage medium which stores a program for making a computer implement an image data processing method for processing data by exchanging
5 information between devices in an image processing system built by connecting a host device which reads out and executes program data stored in a storage medium, and a device which can exchange information
10 such as image data, audio data, and the like with said host device, said device including at least a device comprising a print function, said program module comprising:

a communication control module for controlling a
15 communication between said host device and said device;

a communication module for sharing device information between said host device and said card device via a process of said communication control module;

20 a control module for allowing another device connected to use information shared by a process of said communication module;

an identification module for identifying for all devices connected on the basis of the device
25 information shared by the process of said communication module if the devices are usable; and

a suppression control module for, when none of devices which are used upon executing an application program can be used in accordance with an identification result of a process of said
5 identification module, inhibiting the application program from being launched.

68. The system according to claim 1, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

69. The method according to claim 7, wherein said
10 storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

70. The medium according to claim 8, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

71. The system according to claim 9, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

72. The method according to claim 12, wherein said
15 storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

73. The medium according to claim 15, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

74. The system according to claim 16, wherein said
20 storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

75. The method according to claim 19, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

76. The medium according to claim 21, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

77. The system according to claim 22, wherein said
25 storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

78. The method according to claim 26, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

79. The medium according to claim 28, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

5 80. The system according to claim 30, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

81. The method according to claim 33, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

10 82. The medium according to claim 35, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

83. The system according to claim 36, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

84. The method according to claim 39, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

15 85. The medium according to claim 41, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

86. The system according to claim 42, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

20 87. The method according to claim 53, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

88. The medium according to claim 54, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

89. The system according to claim 55, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

25 90. The method according to claim 66, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.

91. The medium according to claim 67, wherein said storage medium is a read-only storage medium.